A monthly publication of Pakistan Petroleum Limited Vol.LXV No 6 January 2021

PROGRESS

PPL

65th year of publication

Third Grinding Mill Commissioned at Khuzdar

Bolan Mining Enterprises (BME) has recently commissioned the third grinding mill at Khuzdar, Balochistan on December 29, 2020. The new grinding mill, MTW 175Z, will increase the overall grinding capacity to 135,000 - 150,000 metric tonnes annually, and eventually replace the low or non-performing older mill.

The third grinding mill's requirement was raised back in January 2017 and budget approval given in September 2017. It took until mid-November 2018 when LC opening request was generated after the award letter was already issued. The same was cleared immediately by the current MD and CEO Moin Raza Khan on assuming charge. As such it took around four years to complete the process. The purpose of highlighting this is to draw attention of Government authorities to the long drawn and complicated Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) driven processes as well as accelerate the internal non-PPRA activities, simultaneously.

BME has been operating two grinding mills for barite at Khuzdar with a total production capacity of 70,000 -80,000 metric tonnes annually. Demand for barite was on an increasing trend until Covid-19 pandemic in December 2019/ January 2020, as a weighing agent mainly in oil and gas drilling. However, the demand is expected to bounce back as soon as the oil industry is on its normal track. It has high specific gravity and around 80 percent barite globally is used as drilling fluid/ mud.

The new grinding mill MTW 175Z at Khuzdar

Barite powder stockyard

Due to the above-mentioned increasing trend in national and international demand for barite, before the incidence of Covid-19, BME enhanced its grinding capacity through installation and commissioning of the third grinding mill. BME has set forth to address the future barite requirement and to achieve its business targets in line with this increased production capacity.

The total sales of BME during

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2019-20 were 184,365 tonnes of which barite powder was 64,561 tonnes, being well below the previous grinding capacity due to low drilling activities during Covid-19. It is crucial to find international customers for barite powder rather than ore, which is almost all exported and makes a lion's share of 65 percent of the total barite sold. BME team is tasked with this challenge to engage with foreign buyers and make effective use of this third mill.

BME is a joint venture between Government of Balochistan (GoB) and Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), each sharing a 50 percent working interest. Mining activity and commercial production of barite from Gunga, Khuzdar commenced in 1976.

While producing drilling grade barite, BME complies with the American Petroleum Institute's (API)-13A standards and is maintaining API certification since 2001, being the only API-13A certified entity in Pakistan. The barite requirements of major Exploration and Production companies operating in Pakistan are being mostly fulfilled by BME. It also exports some barite powder and mostly lumps/ore to the international market, mainly covering Gulf Cooperation Council countries and saving valuable foreign exchange.

In line with the company's diversification strategy, Barite-Lead-Zinc (BLZ) project at Khuzdar has been identified as a growth prospect. Based on the feasibility study of this project, GoB awarded Mining Lease (ML) to PPL on February 19, 2021 for the BLZ project. Planning activities for mine development and processing plant are in progress.

Lead-Zinc deposit at Gunga/ Khuzdar and their reserves were for the first time comprehensively reported in a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report of 1983. As a result, a PPL team, including the current MD and CEO Moin Raza Khan set their feet on these deposits in December 1985 for preliminary mapping and confirming UNDP's work. However, the systematic work on their exploitation started in 2005 leading to drilling/ coring activities in 2012, with a loss of several years due to security clearance for expatriates. Eventually by 2017, 10000 m of drilling/ coring activities were completed, culminating into a bankable feasibility study and award of ML.

Commercial dispatch of iron ore from Nokundi also commenced in June 2020. Detailed mine development plan with value addition through mineral processing is underway.

Balochistan has significant potential in the mines and mineral sector and BME is well positioned to tap this potential. The BLZ Project in Khuzdar is one such high potential project capable of generating over 100 million USD revenue besides creating job opportunities for locals and improving overall economic activity in Balochistan. PPL management is fully committed to perform exceptionally in mineral sector with metallogenic belts of Pakistan being one of the richest of such regions in the world. Hence, it has an extraordinary potential to be a game changer. ■

A view of the new grinding mill facility and jaw crusher

The barite requirements of major Exploration and Production companies operating in Pakistan are being mostly fulfilled by Bolan Mining Enterprises. BME exports barite powder and lumps/ ore to the international market, mainly covering Gulf Cooperation Council countries and saving valuable foreign exchange

Editor's Note

This month's issue begins with news of recent commissioning of the third grinding mill at Khuzdar, Balochistan by Bolan Mining Enterprises (BME), a joint venture between Government of Balochistan (GoB) and Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL). The need was felt due to an increase in national and international demand for barite and as a result of this addition, the overall grinding capacity will increase to 135,000 - 150,000 metric tonnes annually. Earlier, BME had been operating two grinding mills for barites at Khuzdar with a total production capacity of 70,000 -80,000 metric tonnes annually.

In pursuit of a diversification strategy, Barite-Lead-Zinc (BLZ) project at Khuzdar has been marked as a growth prospect for which, based on the feasibility study, GoB has recently awarded Mining Lease to PPL. Planning activities for mine development and processing plant are underway.

A development well Sui-111(U) was recently spud as part of the current drilling campaign for production enhancement from the company's flagship Sui Gas Field. The well, planned to a total depth (TD) of 1256 metres through Sui Upper Limestone formation, has been drilled to TD and completed successfully.

Moving on, the well site and access road construction project for exploratory well Pandrani X-1 in Kalat Block, Balochistan is underway and being managed by Construction. The project faces the challenges of adverse weather condition, hostile terrain as well as security issues and is being provided security cover by Pakistan Army. However, it is on course to be another notable feat for the company enabling smooth drilling operations.

On the Corporate Social Responsibility front, the Public Welfare

Access for Pandrani X-1

A winter service vehicle clears the route to Pandrani X-1 site

The well site and access road construction project for exploratory well Pandrani X-1 in Kalat Block, Balochistan has recently commenced, being led by Construction Department, and faces serious security and weather conditions.

The major highlights of the project comprise construction of a 38-kilometer road and civic construction of various important foundations, including rig cellar pad at well site to ensure smooth arrival of drilling rig and subsequent drilling operations. The geological profile of the access road is quite arduous as it entails hard-mountainous terrain, *nala* beds and steep hills that require to be cut and shaped accordingly.

Construction, a core service department of Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), has successfully completed several well sites with the locations ranging from mountainous ranges of Balochistan to the Cholistan desert. However, the Pandrani well site project, has the additional challenge of security besides the hostile terrain and so it is being executed under the umbrella of Pakistan Army.

Access road to wellsite

The challenge of building the well site area and camp location on this rough land, requires not only heavy machinery and equipment but more importantly extraordinary skills, courage and dedication of the team involved against the backdrop of harsh winter conditions and sub-zero temperature.

Modern technology has paved the way for project planning and management strategy which has aided in effective work planning and execution despite adverse weather conditions. The team comprising PPL's construction engineers along with contractor's crew have kept their morale high and undertook this feat.

The Pandrani X-1 project is all set for being another feather in the cap and paving the way for smooth and uninterrupted drilling operations with hopes to produce more hydrocarbons for the country. ■

Hospital, Sui, recently bought required modern medical equipment and established supporting facilities from PPL provided funding of Rs.150 million, being essential for seamless working of the hospital and enhance the range and quality of healthcare facilities and services offered for the benefit of this remote community. The hospital, a joint initiative of PPL and GoB, has been serving the local population of Sui and District Dera Bugti for many years and is one of the major healthcare initiatives of PPL in Balochistan.

Further, in continuation of its support to FC School and College (FCSC), Sui and to assist students, PPL recently donated a 28-seat coaster worth Rs. 5 million to the institution. PPL has been providing transport facility to the students of FCSC, but due to their escalation a permanent arrangement was deemed necessary, particularly to cater to the transportation needs of girls.

All this and more along with our usual entries. Hope you enjoy reading the issue. ■

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Design and Production:
Corporate Communications Department

Photography: Abdul Hannan

Board Meeting

The meeting of the Board of Directors was held via video conferencing on January 6. Chairman Shahab Rizvi, Abid Sattar, Mian Imtiazuddin, Khurshid Bhaimia, Sajid Mehmood Qazi, Nadeem Irshad Kayani, Imtiaz Ahmed Husain Laliwala, Aftab Ahmad, Iftikhar Amjad, MD and CEO Moin Raza Khan, CFO Khalid Rahman and Company Secretary Shahana Ahmed Ali attended the meeting. SMCSF Zeeshan Ul Haq was also present

Sui-111(U) spud

In continuation of the current drilling campaign initiated for production enhancement from Sui Gas Field (SGF), development well Sui-111(U) was spud on January 1, 2021 using Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) - owned rig. The well has a planned total depth (TD) of 1256 metres through Sui Upper Limestone formation.

Optimized casing seat selection has been opted on Sui-111(U) to isolate Habib Rahi Limestone (HRL) from Lower Alabaster to avoid loss and pipe stuck issues in HRL and Lower Alabaster, respectively.

The well has been drilled to TD and completed successfully eliminating drilling issues with optimized casing seat selection. Sui-111(U) was targeted to hit the same fracture network corridor as of Sui-102, Sui-107 and Sui-110, which provided a considerable production rate.

SGF, the pioneer and largest gas field of Pakistan, has been contributing to the country's gas supply since 1955. Being an ageing field, efforts are afoot to avail every opportunity for production enhancement and improve overall recovery. ■

Rig at Sui-111(U)

Enhancing **business proficiency** through RAM

In pursuit of operational excellence, one of the key components is Reliability, Availability and Maintainability (RAM) which is being implemented across various assets at Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL). The RAM dashboard is available to stakeholders for online assessment of health and performance of an asset. Besides, this practice will also align the company's culture to achieve operational excellence.

Reliability, availability, and maintainability are three system attributes that are of considerable interest to systems engineers, logisticians and users. Collectively, they affect the economic life-cycle costs of a system and its utility.

Performance indicators set a clear direction and focus on the company's vision. Moreover, they require good navigation tools, termed Key Performing Indicators (KPIs), to aid in steering the organization.

Utilizing in-house resources from assets, Information Technology and Quality, Health, Safety and Environment, a RAM dashboard has been developed and key business strategic and technical KPIs have been formulated jointly and programmed on the dashboard. SAP plant maintenance module has been used as an input for these KPIs. The KPIs are regularly monitored and gauged against best in class industry benchmarks and also calculate the gaps. The RAM dashboard as shown in Figure-1, highlights KPIs of an asset for December 2020.

The core objective of both benchmarking and KPIs is to assist in the management of business improvement as depicted in Figure-2.

To achieve the quantitative and qualitative measures of key performance parameters which are strategic and critical to the plant, both technically and operationally, are set as the target (by setting benchmarks) for achievement by departments and individuals. The success against these targets is reviewed at regular intervals.

Figure-1

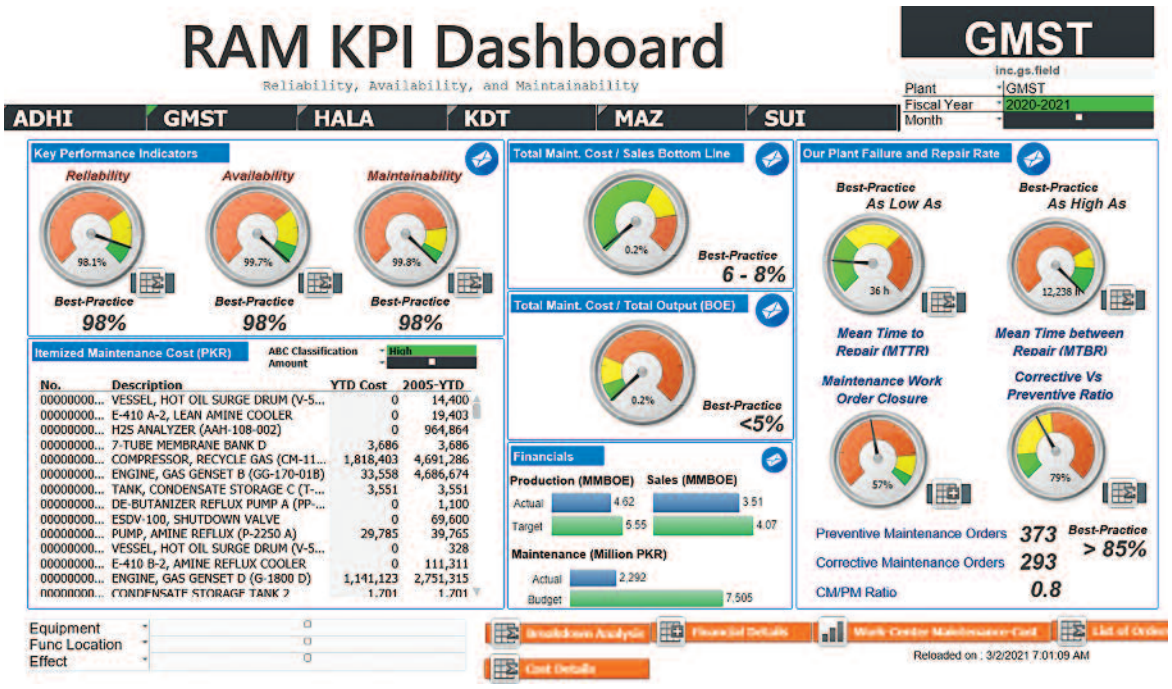


Figure-2

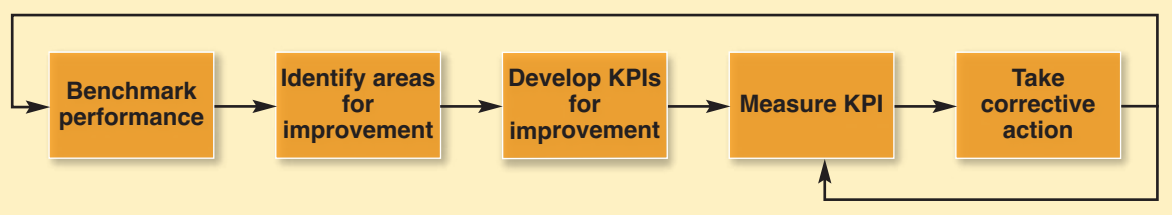
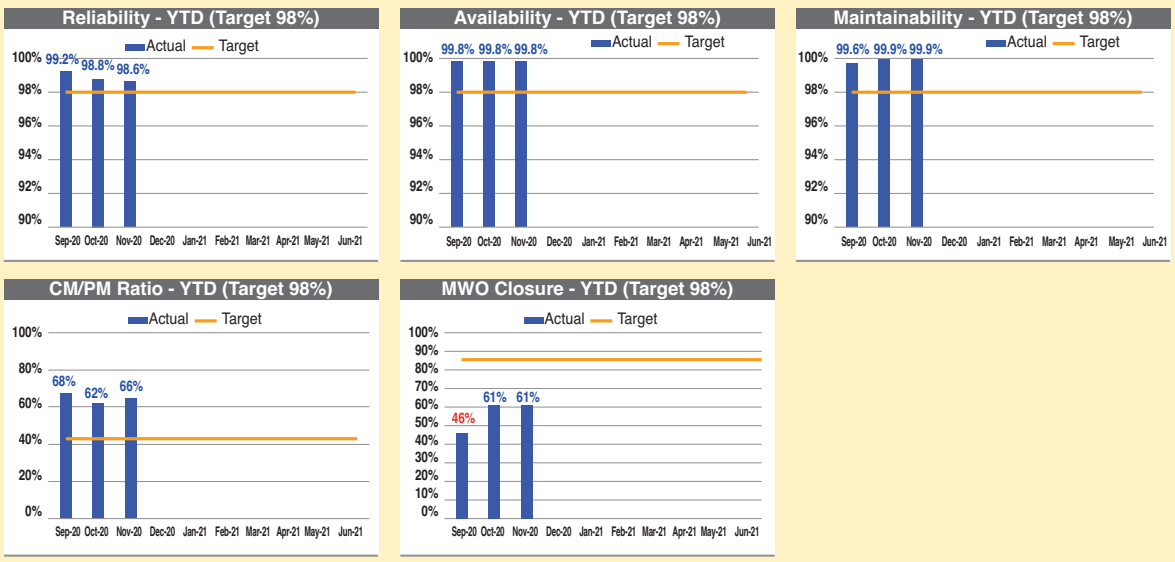


Figure-3



Going forward, progressing of RAM KPIs has been initiated and focal person from each asset has been nominated, who is tasked to send the 'KPIs Summary' to the respective asset owner at the beginning of each month for review and corrective actions on the identified gaps. KPIs in the dashboard have been carefully selected to identify precisely where to take action to improve performance. An example of progress highlights of an asset for September, October and November 2020, respectively can be seen from Figure 3.

Managers and staff at every level of the organization need to participate in the development and success of this programme by playing their role proficiently in their respective functional areas, thereby, generating a sense of ownership. This sense of ownership will enable the continuous improvement process through RAM. ■

QHSE visit

In continuation of the ongoing focus on Quality, Health, Safety and Environment (QHSE), Act. GM (S&K) Farooq Azam Shah along with SM (Sui) Siddique Mahmood Chaudhry visited Sui Field Utility (SFU) under the QHSE Felt Leadership programme on January 26 to review progress and operations of various projects.

HOD (SFU) Muhammad Waheed welcomed them and provided a briefing on the ongoing and future projects, particularly the recently completed water pipeline replacement mega project at Khewali Pumping Station (KPS), Sui.

Shah congratulated the SFU team on achieving the milestone of completion of KPS-Sui water pipeline section safely and earlier than planned. He also encouraged staff to demonstrate the same zeal in future and acknowledged departmental heads for extending the required support.

Chaudhry shared how the Sui teams worked through the challenges, especially the Covid-19 pandemic. He commended the SFU team on their performance on this project with zero incident and in compliance with precautionary measures.

Shah also visited SFU workshop and garage and interacted with staff. He advised them to strengthen the safety culture while exploring cost-effective measures through efficient initiatives without compromising on QHSE. ■

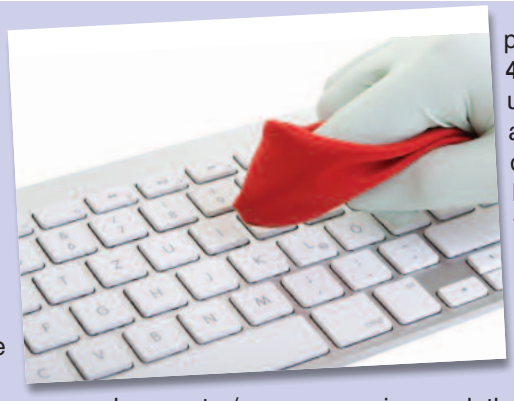
Act. GM(S&K) Farooq Azam Shah (third right) visits Sui Field Utility workshop

SM-Sui Siddique Mahmood Chaudhry and Act. GM(S&K) Farooq Azam Shah (second and third left) applaud Sui Field Utility team for completion of water pipeline replacement project

Be wise, sanitize

During Covid-19 pandemic, having a sanitized computer work surface is essential along with any other frequently used devices. To safely disinfect the computer, it is advisable not to apply the disinfectant directly to the keyboard or laptop. Water and most liquids are excellent conductors of electricity, so even the smallest amount of it could cause a short circuit in the computer or make an electrical connection between the user and the computer causing pain and possibly severe injury. Not only that, harsh chemicals found in household cleaners can wreak havoc on computer monitors, wearing away their coatings.

To safely sanitize computer surfaces, it is recommended to either use a disinfectant wipe, or alternatively spray disinfectant onto a paper towel to wipe down the computer. To clean the computer screen, avoid paper towels, rags, old t-shirts or any of the usual materials used to wipe down surfaces around the house.



Recommended guidelines:

1-Turn off the computer to be disinfected and then unplug the power cord running from the personal computer/ laptop to the electrical outlet or power strip.

2-Disconnect the monitor, keyboard and optical mouse from the desktop computer and remove any batteries installed in the devices. If the laptop is being sanitized, close it and remove the battery from its bottom. Open the laptop lid after disconnecting the battery.

3-Remove dirt, dust and crumbs from the keyboard by using a can of compressed air. Hold the can approximately 6 inches from the keyboard and spray along the perimeter of each key.

4- Sanitize the keyboard by using a disinfectant wipe or a soft, linen-free cloth dipped in isopropyl alcohol. Rub the cloth or wipe on the top and sides of each key and then clean the surface and bottom of the keyboard thoroughly. Going in circles helps avoid leaving streaks. Use a new disinfectant wipe or cloth to clean the mouse.

5-Dampen a microfiber cloth with plain water. Gently wipe the computer monitor to remove dirt and fingerprints. Avoid placing pressure on the screen. Pushing on the screen can damage the pixels of a flat-screen monitor.

In an ideal world, one should clean keyboards, screens and touchscreens daily. After all, they see a lot of unwashed hands. Keeping computers, laptops and mobile devices wiped down can go a long way in reducing the number of germs that get spread. ■

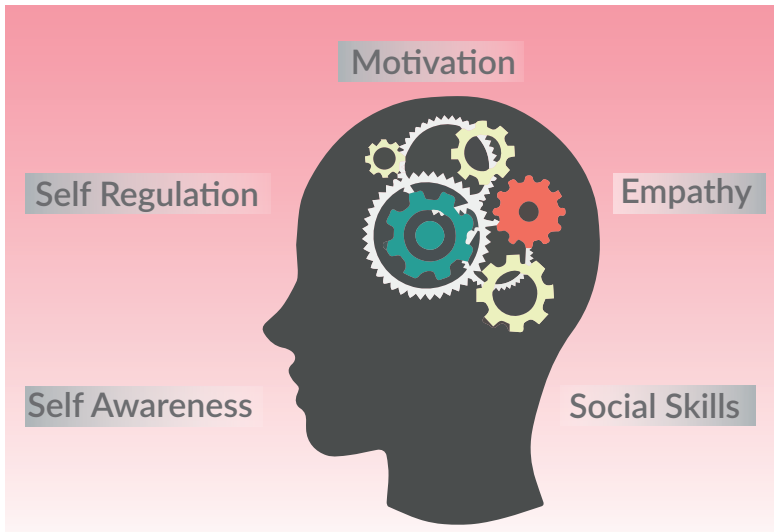
— Information Technology

Emotional intelligence

A three-day online workshop on 'Emotional Intelligence' was organized between December 28 and 30. Lead trainer of Pakistan Society for Training and Development and clinical psychologist Tazeen Mohsin facilitated the session which drew 25 staffers.

A variety of methodologies, techniques and approaches were utilized to make the workshop effective and comprehensible and comprised brainstorming sessions, group discussions, lecture, presentations and case studies.

Mohsin focused on learning models that taught participants how to analyze and act upon complex business issues.



Emotional intelligence is the ability to understand and manage your own emotions and those of the people around you, shared Mohsin. For leaders, having emotional intelligence is essential for success.

The content covered self-management, awareness, regulation, motivation, empathy and interpersonal skills. Mohsin highlighted the importance of such sessions and explained how emotional intelligence is used in the corporate world to address small issues and have a win-win situation.

The application of emotional intelligence in daily interaction with team members was explained along with the process of motivating, conflict resolution and maximizing team and employee's performance. ■

Analyzing data

As an essential business tool particularly useful for recording and analyzing business data, Training and Development along with Information Technology organized three-day online training sessions on 'Advanced Excel' between December 16 and 18.

Irfan Bakaly of Viftech Solutions facilitated the sessions which were attended by 30 employees. These were focused on imparting an understanding of advanced Excel functions in a simplified manner with easy applications. This advanced level training was tailored for professionals to transform data into meaningful dashboards, reports, charts and visualizations. The content was designed to individual's skill level and so there was something for beginners, intermediates and advanced users.

Excel is one of the integral, most powerful and valuable tool in the Microsoft Office arsenal.

The topics were selected to provide an enhanced level of understanding and making the trainees aware of various ways of making excel an informative reporting tool. Staff learnt advanced and professional methods to prepare professional reports and dashboards. ■

Covid-19 sessions

As an ongoing reminder for staff to guard against the spread of Covid-19 pandemic and follow the required SOPs and company instructions and protocols in this regard, all available communication channels are being used by the company at all locations.

Online awareness sessions and leadership visits were arranged by Quality, Health, Safety and Environment in collaboration with Training and Development between December 15 and January 15.

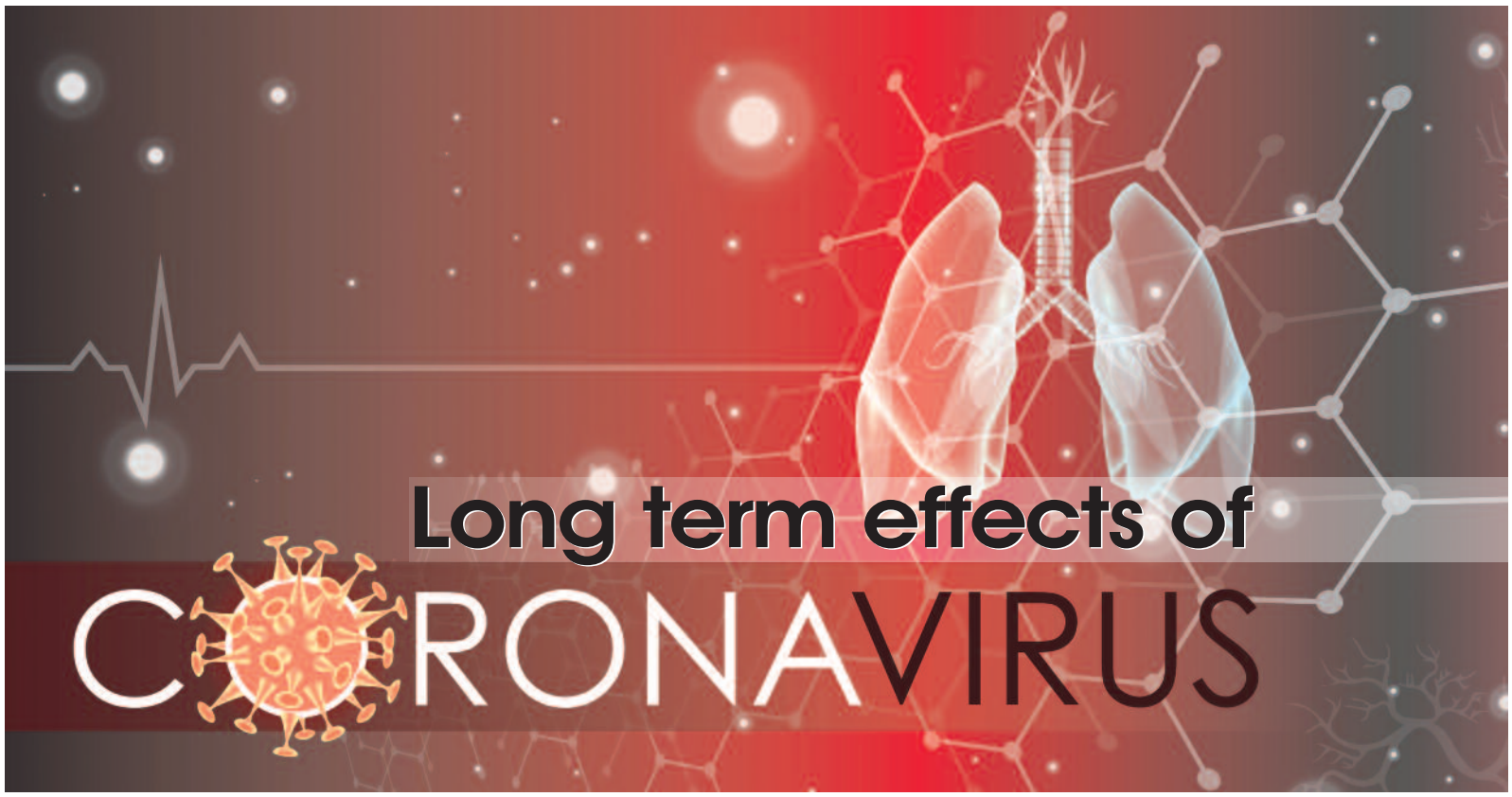
DCOHO Dr. Yousuf Majeed facilitated the recent sessions aimed at lifting staff morale, besides providing guidelines for prevention as per World Health Organization (WHO) directives for each individual, their family and society at large.

Dr. Majeed shared that Covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness, he informed.

Being well informed about the Covid-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads and following prescribed SOPs and guidelines is the best way to slow down its transmission. Washing hands regularly or using an alcohol-based rub frequently along with use of face mask and physical distancing curtails its spread.

The Covid-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it is important to practice respiratory etiquette, shared Dr. Majeed. As an example, it is advisable to cough into a flexed elbow or a tissue and later disposing the tissue in a trash bin.

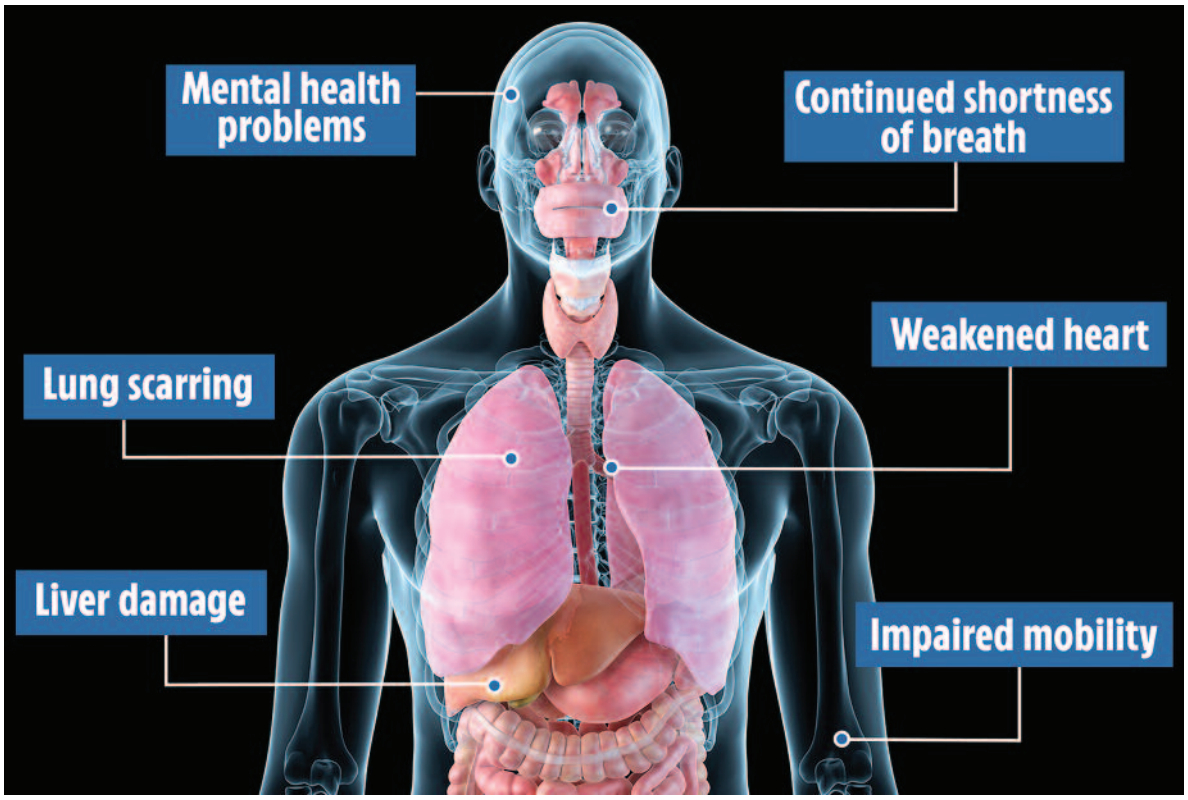
Dr. Majeed also highlighted several actions and requirements that should be reviewed and put in place to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in schools and into the community and to ensure the safety of children and staff while at school. ■



Most people with COVID-19 experience mild symptoms or moderate illness. Approximately 10 to 15 percent of cases progress to severe disease and about 5 percent become critically ill. Typically, people recover from COVID-19 after 2 to 6 weeks as shown below:

For some people, few symptoms may linger for weeks or months following initial recovery. This can also happen in people with mild disease. People are not infectious to others during this time. Some of the patients develop medical complications that may have lasting health effects. Risk factors for persistence of symptoms, include high blood pressure, obesity and pre-existing health conditions. Symptoms which may persist include:

- Fatigue
- Cough, congestion or shortness of breath
- Loss of taste or smell
- Headache, body aches
- Diarrhea, nausea
- Chest or abdominal pain
- Confusion



Long term effects of other coronavirus infections (like SARS and MERS) have also been identified. Covid-19 infection may also increase the risk of long-term health problems. Body system and organs that may be affected include:

1. **Heart:** Damage to heart muscle or heart failure
2. **Lungs:** Damage to lung tissues and restrictive lung disease
3. **Brain & the nervous system:**
   - Loss of sense of smell
   - Consequences of thrombo-embolic events such as pulmonary embolism, heart attack or stroke
   - Cognitive impairment (memory and concentration)
4. **Mental Health:** Anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and sleep disturbance
5. **Musculoskeletal & others:** Pain in joints and muscles, fatigue

What does the above message mean for all of us, especially those who have already contracted COVID-19 and recovered is that:

1. COVID-19 can result in prolonged illness and persistent symptoms even in young adults and persons with no underlying medical conditions who were not hospitalized
2. Much is still unknown about how COVID-19 affects people over time
3. Effective public health messaging for all especially young adults is warranted for compliance with all SOP's of the company both in the office and outside to protect oneself and family members from this infection
4. More time and research is needed to understand the long-term effects, persistence of symptoms, how these health problems affect patients and what is the clinical course and likelihood of complete recovery

— Medical Services Department

COLD vs FLU

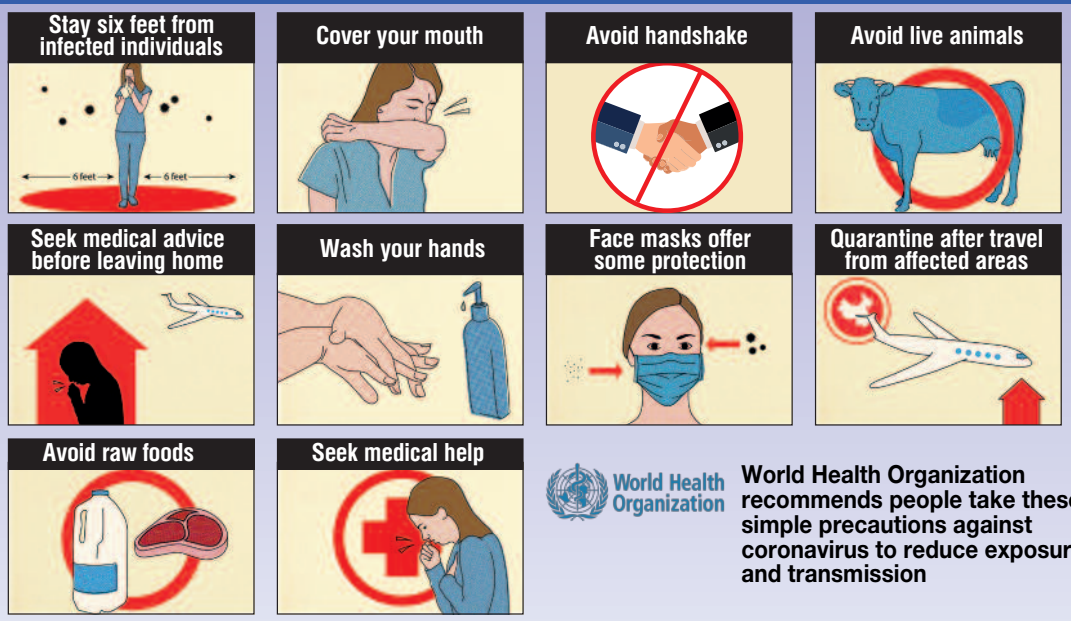
As the cold and flu season is underway it is important to remember that even though flu and common cold are both respiratory illnesses they are caused by different viruses. Due to the fact that these two types of illnesses have similar symptoms, it can be difficult to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. Symptoms can be compared as:

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU (Influenza)
Symptoms onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, Cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

In general, flu is much worse than the common cold and symptoms are more intense. Colds are usually milder than flu and people with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. Colds generally donot result in serious health problems, such as pneumonia, bacterial infections, or hospitalizations. However, flu can have very serious associated complications.

— Medical Services Department

How to protect yourself and others from Coronavirus Infection



World Health Organization

World Health Organization recommends people take these simple precautions against coronavirus to reduce exposure and transmission

CBA agreement **signed**

Pakistan Petroleum Limited's management and Pakistan Petroleum Workers Union (PPWU) CBA signed a Collective Bargaining Agreement (Memorandum of Settlement) for two years, 2018-19, in a simple ceremony held at a local hotel on January 23.

MD and CEO Moin Raza Khan attended the ceremony and met members of the negotiation teams from management and CBA Union. He appreciated the efforts of both teams in reaching an amicable agreement.

The agreement that aims to improve terms of employment of Non-Management staff of the company, was formally signed after negotiations on Charter of Demands submitted by both the parties. The first negotiations' meeting was held at Sui Gas Field (SGF), followed by several sessions at Head Office and SGF.

After deliberations, both management and PPWU agreed on a draft agreement with consensus. The same was presented in the General Body Meeting of the CBA Union at SGF and the workers in general expressed satisfaction on proposed improvements in terms of employment and conclusion of the negotiation and agreement. ■

MD and CEO Moin Raza Khan (first right) presents a copy of Collective Bargaining Agreement 2018-2019 to General Secretary CBA Union Mir Mohammad Hayat Bugti. Act. GM(S&K) Farooq Azam Shah, DMD (AO) Khalid Raza and Act. MIR Najamuddin (second, third and fourth right) are also present

PPL **People**

Retirements

- **Shahnawaz Bugti,** Fitter, Purification Plant, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from January 29 after 32 years of service
- **Mohammad Moosa Bugti,** Fitter, Purification Plant, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from January 28 after 32 years of service
- **Din Muhammad Bugti,** Senior AC Mechanic, Purification Plant, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from January 28 after 32 years of service
- **Muhammad Murad Bugti,** Instrument Mechanic, Production, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from January 26 after 30 years of service
- **Fateh Khan Bugti,** Patrolman, Security, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from January 24 after 17 years of service
- **Faiz Muhammad Bugti,** Helper, Purification Plant, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from January 20 after 29 years of service
- **Fateh Din Bugti,** Well caretaker, Security, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from January 20 after 34 years of service
- **Hassoo Khan Bugti,** Mobile Plant Operator, Production, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from January 19 after 34 years of service
- **Loheen Khan Bugti,** Assistant Tradesman, Sui Field Gas Compressor Station, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from January 15 after 28 years of service
- **Naseer Ahmed,** Head Supervisor, Sui Development, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from January 15 after 38 years of service
- **Rehmat Khan Bugti,** Assistant Tradesman, Administration, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from January 13 after 34 years of service
- **Arz Mohammad Bugti,** Driver, Sui Field Gas Compressor Station, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from January 11 after 35 years of service
- **Raza Muhammad Bugti,** Helper, Purification Plant, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from December 31, 2020 after 31 years of service
- **Ameer Bugti,** Fitter, Sui Field Utilities, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from December 31, 2020 after 24 years of service
- **Ghulam Muhammad Bugti,** Well Caretaker, Security, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from December 31, 2020 after 31 years of service
- **Ghulam Hussain,** Sweeper, Sui Field Hospital, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from December 31, 2020 after 31 years of service
- **Muhammad Nawaz Mazari,** Petrolman, Sui Field Utilities, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from December 31, 2020 after 33 years of service
- **Allah Dina Bugti,** Fitter, Sui Field Gas Compressor Station, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from December 24, 2020 after 34 years of service
- **Sain Bux Bugti,** AC Mechanic, Sui Field Gas Compressor Station, Sui Gas Field, retired with effect from December 20, 2020 after 34 years of service

Achievements

- **Malik Shahzad Abdullah,** Engineer (E/I), Purification Plant, Sui Gas Field, completed his Master of Science in Computer Science from Virtual University of Pakistan
- **Anwar Habib Siddiqui,** Deputy Chief Engineer (Maintenance), Administration, completed his Master of Business Administration in General Management from Preston University, Karachi

Marriages

- **Majid Najeeb Siddiqui,** Engineer (Reservoir), Reservoir Modelling, married Shanzah Ahmed on November 7, 2020
- **Mohibuddin Muhammad Alvi,** Engineer (Mechanical), Kandhkot Field Gas Compressor Station, Kandhkot Gas Field, married Fatima Haadia Athar on September 4, 2020

Births

- A boy, **Muhammad Saad Khan,** was born to Rizwan Khan, Senior Assistant / Computer Operator, Internal Audit, on January 10
- A boy, **Irshad Ali Zardari,** was born to Shahid Ali Zardari, Engineer (Civil), Sui Field Utilities, Sui Gas Field on January 6
- A boy, **Syed Muhammad Mustafa,** was born to Syed Muhammad Ehtesham, Senior Engineer (Maintenance), Kandhkot Field Gas Compressor Station,, Kandhkot Gas Field, on January 4
- A boy, **Liaqat Ali,** was born to Abdul Kareem Bugti, Mud Attendant, Sui Development, Sui Gas Field on December 31, 2020
- A girl, **Irha Javed,** was born to Javed Iqbal, Senior Geophysicist, Exploration (Frontier), on December 31, 2020
- A girl, **Iqra Zeeshan,** was born to Zeeshan Muhammad Khan, Senior Engineer (Mechanical), Adhi Field, on December 24, 2020
- A girl, **Dua Fatima,** was born to Maqsood Akbar, Engineer (Maintenance), Purification Plant, Sui Gas Field, on December 6, 2020
- A boy, **Muhammad Ammar,** was born to Ahsan Khalil, Engineer (Production), Sui Field Production, Sui Gas Field, on November 25, 2020
- A boy, **Muhammad Hashir,** was born to Azhar Khan, Engineer (Drilling), Drilling & Well Engineering, on November 22, 2020
- A girl, **Syeda Zaynab Hassan,** was born to Syed Ammar Hassan, Engineer (Mechanical), Kandhkot Gas Field, on November 20, 2020
- A boy, **Muhammad Ammar,** was born to Muhammad Murad Haider, Engineer (Drilling), Drilling & Completion Engineering, on November 16, 2020
- A boy, **Dawood Ahmad,** was born to Waqas Ahmad, Senior Technician (E/I), Gambat South Processing Facility, on October 2, 2020
- A girl, **Uswa Noor,** was born to Parvez Ahmed Memon, Senior Engineer (Civil), Construction, on September 23, 2020
- A girl, **Alishah,** was born to Din Muhammad Bugti, Rigman, Sui Development, Sui Gas Field, on September 19, 2020
- A boy, **Muhammad Ahil,** was born to Muhammad Rafique Bugti, Rigman, Sui Development, Sui Gas Field, on May 1, 2020

World oil prices fall slightly

Oil prices fell slightly on January 18 as a stronger dollar, fears over soaring COVID-19 cases around the world and the slow pace of vaccination against the coronavirus outweighed a better-than-expected quarterly rebound for China's economy.

Brent crude was down 23 cents, or 0.4 percent, at USD 54.87 per barrel and West Texas Intermediate US crude fell 19 cents, or 0.4 percent, to USD 52.17.

"Corona-induced economic fears, a stronger US dollar and more pessimistic investor sentiment are all playing their part in the fact that Brent is trading ... around USD 3 lower than last Wednesday," said Commerzbank analyst Eugen Weinberg.

The benchmarks had rallied in the past few weeks, buoyed by COVID-19 vaccine rollouts and a surprise cut in output by Saudi Arabia. But the slow pace of vaccination has raised doubts over how soon economies could recover.

A UK official said Britain's vaccine rollout was limited by a "lumpy" manufacturing process, and Pfizer Inc said it was distributing fewer doses of its vaccine in Europe in January than originally contracted. "Vaccination campaigns, although ongoing, are lagging the speed needed to fast-track a global recovery in the first quarter and the comeback for oil demand will be slow," said Rystad Energy's head of oil markets Bjornar Tonhaugen.

The US dollar strengthened for a third consecutive day on January 18 to a four-week high, weighing on crude prices. Oil is usually priced in dollars, so a stronger dollar makes crude more expensive for buyers with other currencies.

Security concerns ahead of this week's US presidential inauguration are also dragging on investor sentiment, said PVM Oil analyst Tamas Varga. "In addition to the coronavirus running amok, this week's tense presidential inauguration can also cause unease amongst investors," he said.

Oil prices clawed back some losses after Chinese data showed the economy of the world's biggest oil importer picked up speed in its recovery from the pandemic.

Prices also found support in a drop in Libyan oil output, with Waha Oil Company reducing production by up to 200,000 barrels per day because of maintenance on the main pipeline that links the Al-Samah and Al-Dhahra oilfields to Es Sider port.

– Reuters

US shale oil just had its worst year

US oil and gas shares and drilling activity are edging higher, but a disastrous year for the energy industry means the go-go days of the shale boom may be gone for good.

Deep spending cuts that came with the collapse in fuel demand and oil prices due to the Covid-19 pandemic have ended an era that put the US atop the ranks of world's biggest producers. The shale industry will ring in the New Year pumping 7.44 million barrels per day (bpd), down nearly 20 percent from the beginning of 2020.

Shale producers were hit hard after borrowing to expand production and slashed spending and output to cut losses. Shale wells' quick development made it the first choice at larger firms to impose cuts. Rising demand for cleaner fuels means global consumption may never return to its prior peak. As growth resumes, OPEC and allies plan to increase their output, undercutting efforts to restart some shale fields.

"We are just going to keep slogging through everything," said JR Reger, Chief Executive of Iron Oil, a Montana oil producer, in an interview. His outlook for shale in 2021 is "stagnant."

Company outlays next year will reach USD 54 billion, up slightly from 2020 but well below 2019's USD 104 billion, estimates data provider HIS Markit. Top independent shale producers Pioneer Natural Resources, Diamondback Energy and ConocoPhillips forecast output to remain flat to slightly above current levels.

Until this year, "there has never been a straight week in my whole career where I haven't had a rig drilling somewhere," said Robert Watson, CEO at Abraxas Petroleum. This year, US oil futures turned negative for the first time as storage tanks filled, rigs hit the lowest level on record, and ExxonMobil was dropped from the Dow Jones Industrial Index of major US companies.

Energy and petrochemical firms slashed employment as oil retreated, putting 107,000 US workers out of jobs by August, according to consultancy Deloitte. Up to 70 percent of those jobs may not return next year, it said.

Oil bankruptcy filings climbed this year, with USD 53.9 billion in debt through the first 11 months, about four times that of the same period in 2019, according to law firm Haynes and Boone.

Most of the filings were from shale firms, and the pace may pick up next year, said Kraig Grahmann, the head of its energy finance practice.

– Reuters

Support for FC School & College, Sui

Over the years Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, has been providing considerable financial assistance and support to FC School and College (FCSC), Sui. In continuation and to assist students, PPL recently donated a coaster to FCSC.

The coaster was formally handed over by SMSui Siddique Mahmood Chaudhry to Commandant Sui Rifles, Col. Nasir Mehmood in a simple ceremony held at FCSC, Sui on January 19, 2021.

PPL has been providing transport facility to the students of FCSC. However, due to the escalation in their number, particularly girls, the need was felt for adding a permanent transport facility. The 28-seat coaster, at a cost of Rs. 5 million, will be used primarily for fulfilling the transportation needs of female students.

FCSC started as Balochistan Public School, Sui back in 2007 and since then with support from PPL has been providing quality education to the locals of Sui town, home to PPL's flagship, Sui Gas Field.

Earlier during 2007 and 2008, PPL financially supported the institution for establishing the school building and students' hostels at a cost of Rs. 14 million.

Besides, PPL has been providing financial assistance to FCSC, Sui annually since 2009 to extend scholarships to local, deserving students of Sui, benefitting nearly 100 students annually. The company also sponsored construction of a separate campus building for FCSC, Sui in 2017-18 with a total contribution of Rs. 35 million. The institution has separate campuses for boys and girls, starting from kindergarten to intermediate. ■

SMSui Siddique Mahmood Chaudhry (right) presents the key of PPL-funded coaster to Commandant Sui Rifles Col. Nasir Mehmood

An infant under treatment at the mother and childcare ward

Healthcare for Sui, Dera Bugti

The Public Welfare Hospital, Sui (PWHS), a joint initiative of Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) and Government of Balochistan (GoB), has been serving the local population of Sui and District Dera Bugti for the last many years and is one of the major healthcare initiatives of PPL in Balochistan.

The hospital recently purchased the required modern medical equipment and established supporting facilities worth Rs.150 million provided by PPL, being essential for the smooth operations of the hospital. These were for the establishment of Central Sterile Supply Department and laundry unit, central medical gas pipeline system, required equipment for operation theatre, radiology, laboratory, emergency, labor room, wards and consulting clinics.

As a result, the PWHS will further improve its range and quality of healthcare facilities and services offered for the benefit of this remote and rural community.

PWHS was constructed by PPL on land donated by GoB, with furnishing and basic equipment at a cost of nearly Rs. 380 million. Besides, PPL annually contributes for various operational activities at PWHS, including payment of consultants' fee, repair and maintenance and facilitation for in-patients. The 50-bed PWHS was inaugurated in March, 2010 and serves Dera Bugti, Pir Koh, Zain Koh, Kashmore, Mazari Goth, Loti besides other neighbouring villages. The GoB operates the hospital under the supervision of an independent Board of Governors.

Consultation at the out-patient department

The hospital provides 24-hour free of cost quality healthcare services at emergency along with in- and out-patient departments, laboratory, labour room, ECG, pharmacy, fully equipped Intensive Care Unit for women as well as NICU. Diagnostic services, including ultrasound and X-ray technology along with dentistry are also available at PWHS.

The out-patient, mother and childcare and emergency services commenced back in 2013. Besides, qualified and experienced healthcare professionals, including paediatrician, gynaecologist, anaesthetist, and surgeons provide the required quality services at PWHS.

An average of 300 patients per day comprising men and women of all ages with medical issues such as influenza, pneumonia, gastroenteritis, urinary and respiratory tract infections and Hepatitis visit and avail the facilities at the hospital. Women with gynecological issues and children with general ailments form a sizable number.

Around 11000 patients were provided free of cost consultation, treatment and medicines in December 2020 and the number is ever-increasing. Hence, an out-patient department has commenced operations in the evening to cater to this rising demand. ■

PRODUCTION
PPL-operated Fields

December 2020

Sui Gas Field	Balochistan	
Raw Gas		(Million Cubic Feet)
Average/Day		360
Maximum/Day		363
Adhi Field	Punjab	
		(Barrels)
NGL Average/Day		230
Crude Average/Day		8791
		(Tonnes)
LPG Average/Day		240
		(Million Cubic Feet)
GAS Average/Day		60
Kandhkot Gas Field	Sindh	
Raw Gas		(Million Cubic Feet)
Average/Day		140
Maximum/Day		220
Gambat South	Sindh	
Shahdadpur Gas Field		
		(Barrels)
Condensate Average/Day		776
		(Million Cubic Feet)
Gas Average/Day		85
		(Tonnes)
LPG Average/Day		10
Shahdadpur West Gas Field		
		(Barrels)
Condensate Average/Day		211
		(Million Cubic Feet)
Gas Average/Day		12
		(Tonnes)
LPG Average/Day		0
Shahdadpur East Gas Field		
		(Million Cubic Feet)
Gas Average/Day		0
Kabir*		
		(Barrels)
Condensate Average/Day		0
		(Million Cubic Feet)
Gas Average/Day		0
Mazarani Gas Field	Sindh	
Raw Gas		(Million Cubic Feet)
Average/Day		3
Maximum/Day		4
Chachar Gas Field	Sindh	
Raw Gas		(Million Cubic Feet)
Average/Day		1
Maximum/Day		3
Dhok Sultan Oil Field*	Punjab	
Raw Gas		(Million Cubic Feet)
Average/Day		0
		(Barrels)
Crude Average/Day		0
Hala	Sindh	
Adam Gas Field		
		(Barrels)
Condensate Average/Day		84
		(Million Cubic Feet)
Gas Average/Day		5
		(Tonnes)
LPG Average/Day		1
Adam West Gas Field		
		(Barrels)
Condensate Average/Day		31
		(Million Cubic Feet)
Gas Average/Day		8
Fazl Gas Field		
		(Barrels)
Condensate Average/Day		4
		(Million Cubic Feet)
Gas Average/Day		7

**Early Production*